

I call on you to hold an official public hearing in my state.

Before the disastrous 2003 decision to weaken media ownership rules (which a federal court has now overturned), you held only one official public hearing. Further, FCC officials met behind closed doors 71 times with major broadcasters – but only five times with public interest groups. And to justify your actions, you used deceptive, industry-sponsored research data.

The will of Big Media had been heeded at the expense of American citizens and democracy itself. This has to end. Before you rewrite the ownership rules, I demand an official public FCC hearing in my state, impartial and verifiable research, and transparent debates.

It is time to put the needs of democracy – a diverse, skeptical, independent and competitive media system – ahead of profit-hungry media giants.

I'm not always in the mood for NPR or C-Span radio, but corporate media, with the complicity of the FCC and Congress, has turned the rest of the radio airwaves into a monoculture of sleazy no-talent disk jockeys playing only the most popular music between blocks of ads, know-nothing talk jocks, and evangelical Christians. We citizens own the broadcast spectrum and we demand to be part of the process of governing it.